CUBA CHURCH MISSIONARY GUILD.

March , 1879.

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In October, 1871, Bishop Whipple, having passed the previous winter in Cuba, made a statement to the Bishops of our Church, (not sitting as a House,) in reference to the religious position and condition of foreign residents in that island. The state of things thus brought to their notice was such as to impress the bishops assembled with the sense of an urgent duty, and they commissioned the Rev. Edward Kenney, a presbyter of the Diocese of Maryland, for such work in Cuba as, under the circumstances, was proper to undertake and possible to do. He accepted the charge in simple faith that the call of his superiors was to be obeyed; he has done the duty laid upon him, under many difficulties, untiringly, and it is not too much to say, heroically; and he has been blessed in it with great success. It appeared at that time undesirable, for political and other reasons, to give much publicity to the movement. The position of things has now been changed, and the work can be prosecuted more freely, and without any risk of interference on the part of the Spanish authorities. And as it is a work among foreigners, no question is raised of ecclesiastical intrusion, while the proximity of the field, and the intimate commercial and other relations of this country with the island of Cuba, make it a special responsibility of this Church. No other religious body has undertaken any such work, and Mr. Kenney is the only clergyman, outside the Roman Communion, doing duty in the island.

It ought to be stated in the outset, in order to anticipate enquiries often made heretofore as to the relation which this work sustains to the Church, that it has been placed by the Presiding Bishop under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Long Island, acting under Title III., Canon 5, as the Bishop in charge of Congregations in Foreign Lands. The Board of Missions has not felt itself authorized, in its present financial straitness, to assume the pecuniary responsibility for this work, and therefore, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, the CUBA CHURCH MISSIONARY GUILD has been organized to secure special contributions for its support.

The work of our mission in Cuba for the past seven years may be summarized as follows, viz:

First: Religious Services have been held for foreigners, at first on board American ships of war and merchant-ships in the harbour, or on shore under the protection of our navy; afterwards in the saloon of the San Carlos Hotel in Havana itself; in the Foreign Hospital; at Matanzas and Cardenas; and on plantations.

Second: Pastoral work has been done among Americans, English, and Germans, but under many hindrances arising out of the demoralized condition of foreign society in Cuba, which has never before had any spiritual care whatever. Marriages have been solemnized, children and adults baptized, and other Christian offices performed for many who would otherwise have deeply felt their deprivation.

Third: Mr. Kenney's work has so far won recognition from the Spanish authorities that they have given him the amplest freedom for spiritual work in the Foreign Hospital; so much so that he may be considered as practically its chaplain. In this Hospital are treated the yellow-fever cases so numerous among our seamen and other foreigners in Havana, and this part of his work alone makes Mr. Kenney's mission important enough to claim the support of humane and Christian men. American Christians ought not to hesitate one single moment to avail themselves of such an opportunity for providing their own brethren with the ministrations of religion in the hour of their sorest need. This faithful priest has gladly made his own life an offering--he has himself been stricken down with the scourge which we have all learned to dread, and by GOD'S mercy has been raised again the better qualified for his work.

Fourth: He has been further enabled to secure a decent burial-ground for Protestants. The treatment of our dead, heretofore, was such as to shock every natural sentiment of a civilized and Christian people—in fact they were not buried in any proper sense. All this is now changed, and our dead—nearly one hundred every year—receive Christian burial.

Fifth: Our devoted chaplain is further enabled by his position to guide the charities of the benevolent in channels of usefulness to many sick, bereaved, and destitute foreigners; he is an almoner, and his work in this respect is highly appreciated by the foreign consuls.

Sixth: In addition to these duties, he is in fact a missionary to seamen, and to Chinese and negro labourers on plantations. One very large plantation, on which are some six hundred souls, has been placed under his charge, and other similar opportunities of usefulness are opening to our mission, which will require additional clergymen when they can be had.

These facts and considerations would seem to amply justify the interest of the bishops in the work they have instituted in Cuba. It is a work which lies ready to our hand, and a responsibility which Providence seems peculiarly to have laid upon our Church. It has the confidence and respect of good men of every nation resident there. It cannot be allowed to fail or be suspended without a conspicuous dereliction of duty our part.

The work, it will readily occur to those who read this statement, has two aspects—that of a chaplaincy, and that of a mission. As a chaplaincy, providing spiritual care for persons whose business, pleasure, or health, makes them permanent or temporary residents in Cuba, and who may be supposed able and willing to sustain a chaplain for their own benefit, it certainly would not be justified in asking aid, and does not ask it. But as a mission, to seamen, to the sick in hospital, to negroes and coolies, it has a claim upon us. The combination of these two kinds of work is possible, and only in combination can either be sustained, and the standard of a pure faith and sound Christian morality be uplifted in a community where it is sorely needed as a testimony against error and evil, as a rallying-point for truth and goodness, and as a continual reminder to our own citizens and other foreigners of Christian obligations which, away from Christian homes and Church surroundings, they are very apt to forget. While, therefore, it has been and will be sustained to some extent, as a chaplaincy, by pecuniary con-

tributions from residents and visitors in Cuba, it still requires for its efficient prosecution as a mission, a measure of support from Christians at home. Four thousand dollars a year contributed here, in addition to what may be secured on the spot, will suffice to sustain it at present. And it is neither economical nor just that the time and labour of the clergyman in charge should be withdrawn, as it has hitherto been so largely, from his legitimate work, and expended in providing means for carrying it on.

This Guild, therefore, organized to sustain a work which the bishops of the Church have established and repeatedly approved, and endeavoring to place it on a permanent and satisfactory basis, asks of the clergy and laity subscriptions, church offerings, and other contributions, for sustaining our mission in Cuba.

For the Executive Committee:

W. TATLOCK, Chairman.
JOHN COLEMAN, Corresponding Secretary.

OFFICERS.

President: THE RIGHT REV. B. B. SMITH, D. D., PRESIDING BISHOP.

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Remittances should be made direct to the Treasurer as above. Membership Fee, One Dollar per annum.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BISHOPS IN COUNCIL.

FROM THE MINUTES:—The Bishop of Pennsylvania presented and read a report from the Rev. Edward Kenney, a Presbyter of this Church, acting as a missionary in Cuba, and offered the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the Bishops in Council hereby express their deep interest in, and hearty sympathy with, the work of the Rev. Mr. Kenney in Cuba, the report of which has just been read.

Resolved, That this Council cordially endorses the appeal of the Rev. Mr. Kenney for means—

1. To support himself, and needed assistants, and
2. For a fund, which can be used at the discretion of Mr. Kenney, for such cases of need as appeal to him for help in his hospital and pastoral work.

Resolved, That the Bishops in council assembled, authorize their commission to declare that the Rev. Edward Kenney is officiating in Cuba by their appointment, and with their entire approval of his work and course thus far,

Attest: WM. TATLOCK, *Acting Secretary.*